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"Jamal Elias's delightfully readable rendering of Sultan Bahu's short poems offers a fine introduction to an important figure in South Asian Islamic vernacular literature. With their earthy charm and engaging simplicity, these Punjabi verses convey the immediacy of the spiritual quest as expressed in the popular idiom and imagery of the countryside. A fine choice for courses in Islamic religious studies and spirituality." — JOHN RENARD, author of *Seven Doors to Islam: Spirituality and the Religious Life of Muslims* and *In the Footsteps of Muhammad: Understanding Islamic Experience*

"The great Punjabi Sufi poet Sultan Bahu comes alive for English readers in this lucid and accessible translation by Jamal Elias. Just as the poet's name evokes the divine presence, so the pungent and earthy images of these poems jolt the reader with a perspective that goes beyond conventional religious boundaries. Transmitted orally by generations of singers, these powerful verses show how Sufism has actually been communicated. This should be on the bookshelf of everyone who is interested in Sufism." — CARL W. ERNST, Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

SULTAN BAHU (d. 1691) is one of India's most enduringly beloved and influential Sufi poets. A respected scholar from what is today the nation of Pakistan, Bahu became famous worldwide for his eloquent and inspirational Punjabi poetry and prose, which constitute a central pillar of the Sufi religious and literary tradition of northern India. So popular is his poetry in Pakistan and India today that illiterate Punjabis can recite it by heart. *Death Before Dying* offers a window on the Sufi mystical tradition, providing a rare glimpse into the religious lives of rural Muslims during the days of the Mughal Empire. The poetry of Sultan Bahu has inspired Sufis of the Punjab for countless generations, embodying essential characteristics of the mystical tradition, especially in its emphasis on complete and unrestricted devotion to God coupled with a skepticism toward the formal, legalistic, and institutionalized elements of organized religion. To this day, Sultan Bahu's anticlerical and spirit-filled message resonates for Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs throughout the world.

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Cover design: Barbara Jellow

ISBN 0-520-21242-8

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
Berkeley 94720